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TO SIR H. G.:—I send not my letters as tribute, nor interest, nor recompence, nor for commerce, nor as testimonials of my love, nor provokers of yours, nor to justify my custom of writing, nor for a vent and utterance of my meditations; for my letters are either above or under all such offices, yet I write very affectionately, and I chide and accuse my self of diminishing that affection, which sends them, when I ask my self why. Only I am sure, that I desire that you might have in your hands letters of mine of all kinds, as conveyances and deliverers of me to you, whether you accept me as a friend, or as a patient, or as a penitent, or as a beads-man; for I decline no jurisdiction, nor refuse any tenure. I would not open any door upon you, but look in, when you open it. Angels have not, nor affect not other knowledge of one another, than they list to reveal to one another. It is then in this only, that friends are angels, that they are capable and fit for such revelations, when they are offered. If at any time I seem to study you more inquisitively, it is for no other end, but to know how to present you to God in my prayers, and what to ask of him for you; for even that holy exercise may not be done inopportunately, no nor importunately. I find little error in that Grecian's counsel, who says, If thou ask any thing of God, offer no sacrifice, nor ask elegantly, nor vehemently; but remember, that thou wouldst not give to such an asker. Nor in his other countryman, who affirms sacrifice of blood to be so unproportionable to God, that perfumes, though much more spiritual, are too gross; yea, words, which are our subtlest and delicatest outward creatures, being composed of thoughts and breath, are so muddy, so thick, that our thoughts themselves are so; because (except at the first rising) they are ever leavened with passions and affections. And that advantage of nearer familiarity with God, which the Act of Incarnation gave us, is grounded upon God's assuming us, not our going to him; and our access to his presence are but his descents into us. And when we get any thing by prayer, he gave us beforehand the thing and the petition; for I scarce think any ineffectual prayer free from both sin and the punishment of sin. Yet as God seposd a seventh of our time for his exterior worship, and as his Christian Church early presented him a type of the whole year in a Lent, and after imposed the obligation of canonical hours, constituting thereby moral Sabbaths every day, I am far from dehorting those fixed devotions: but I had rather it were disposed upon thanksgiving than petition, upon praise than prayer; not that God is endeared by that, or wearied by this; all is one in the receiver, but not one in the lender; and thanks doth both offices: For nothing doth so innocently provoke new graces, as gratitude. I would also rather make short prayers than extend them, though God can neither be surprised nor besieged; for long prayers have more of the man, as ambition of eloquence, and a complacency in the work, and more of the devil by often distractions; for after in the beginning we have all intreated God to hearken, we speak no more to him. Even this letter is some example of such infirmity; which being intended for a letter, is extended and strayed into a homily; and whatsoever is

not what it was purposed, is worse. Therefore it shall at last end like a letter, by assuring you, I am, &c.

"A noble letter in that next to the best style of correspondence, in which friends communicate to each other the accidents of their meditations, and baffle absence by writing what, if present, they would have talked. Nothing can be tenderer than the sentence I have lined."

TO THE COUNTESS OF BEDFORD.

HAPPIEST AND WORTHIER LADY:—I do not remember that ever I have seen a petition in verse; I would not therefore be singular, nor add these to your other papers. I have yet adventured so near as to make a petition for verse, it is for those your ladyship did me the honour to see in Twickenham Garden, except you repent your making, and have mended your judgment by thinking worse, that is, better, because more justly, of their subject. They must needs be an excellent exercise of your wit, which speak so well of so ill. I humbly beg them of your ladyship, with two such promises, as to any other of your compositions were threatenings: that I will not shew them, and that I will not believe them; and nothing should be so used which comes from your brain or heart. If I should confess a fault in the boldness of asking them, or make a fault by doing it in a longer letter, your ladyship might use your style and old fashion of the Court towards me, and pay me with a pardon. Here, therefore, I humbly kiss your ladyship's fair learned hands, and wish you good wishes and speedy grants.

Your ladyship's servant,

JOHN DONNE.

"A truly elegant letter, and a happy specimen of that dignified courtesy to sex and rank, of that white flattery in which the wit unrealizes the falsehood, and the sportive exaggeration of the thoughts, blending with a delicate tenderness, faithfully conveys the truth as to the feelings."

TO THE LADY G.

MADAM:—I am not come out of England, if I remain in the noblest part of it, your mind; yet, I confess, it is too much diminution to call your mind any part of England, or this world, since every part even of your body deserves titles of higher dignity. No prince would be loath to die, that were assured of so fair a tomb to preserve his memory;* but I have a greater advantage than so: for since there is a religion in friendship, and a death in absence, to make up an entire friend, there must be an heaven too; and there can be no heaven so proportional to that religion, and that death, as your favour; and I am gladder that it is a heaven, than that it were a court or any other high place of this world, because I am likelier to have a room there than here, and better cheap; Madam, my best treasure is time, and my best employment of that (next my thoughts of thankfulness for my Redeemer) is to study good wishes for you, in which I am by continual meditation so learned, that any creature (except your own good angel), when it would do you most good, might be content to come and take instructions from

Your humble and affectionate servant,
J. D.

Amiens, the 7 Feb., 1611.

"Contrast this letter with that to the Countess of Bedford. There is perhaps

* "Thou in our wonder and astonishment
Hast built thyself a live-long monument;
And, there sepulchred, in such state dost lie,
That kings for such a tomb might wish to die."
Coleridge's Note. Milton's Lines on Shaks.

more wit and more vigor in this, but the thoughts played upon are of so serious a nature, and the exception in the parenthesis so awful, that the art, instead of carrying off, aggravates the flattery, and Donne must either have been literally sincere, or adulatory to extravagance, and almost to blasphemy."

Of my Anniversaries, the fault that I acknowledge in myself, is to have descended to print anything in verse, which though it have excuse even in our times by men who profess and practise much gravity; yet I confess I wonder how I declined to it, and do not pardon myself; but for the other part of the imputation of having said too much, my defence is, that my purpose was to say as well as I could: for since I never saw the gentlewoman, I cannot be understood to have bound myself to have spoken just truths, but I would not be thought to have gone about to praise her, or any other, in rhyme; except I took such a person as might be capable of all that I could say: if any of those ladies think that Mistress Drewry was not so, let that lady make herself fit for all those praises in the book, and they shall be hers.

To my honored friend, G. G., Esq.

"This excuse reminds me of Sallust's (the Greek Platonic Philosopher's) apology for the Pagan mythology, viz. that the fables are so excessively silly and absurd, that they are incapable of imposing on any man in his senses, and therefore to be acquitted of falsehood. To be sure, these Anniversaries were the strangest caprices of genius upon record. I conjecture that Donne had been requested to write something on this girl, whom he had never seen, and having no other subject in contemplation, and Miss Drewry herself supplying materials, he threaded upon her name all his thoughts as they crowded into his mind, careless how extravagant they became, when applied to the best woman on earth. The idea of degradation and frivolity which Donne himself attached to the character of a professed poet, and which was only not universal in the reigns of Elizabeth and James, which yet exhibited the brightest constellation of poets ever known, gives a settling answer to the fashionable outcry about patronage—nothing but patronage wanting to Midasize their Herr Füssly into Michael Angelo Buonaroti, Mister Shee to a Raphael, and Rat Northcote into a Titian."

It hath been my desire (and God may be pleased to grant it) that I might die in the pulpit; if not that, yet that I might take my death in the pulpit, that is, die the sooner by occasion of those labours.

To my honored friend G. G., Esq., Jan. 7, 1630.

"This passage seems to prove that Donne retained thro' life the same opinions defended in his Biothanatos; at least this, joined with his dying command that the treatise should not be destroyed, tho' he did not think the age ripe for its publication, furnishes a strong presumption of his perseverance in the defensibility of suicide in certain cases."

(To be continued.)

THE NEW "SHAKSPEARE."
[THIRD ARTICLE—CONCLUSION.]

WE had purposed to examine in somewhat greater detail the specialties of Mr. Collier's volume, but, on looking back to the ground we have already passed over, we find that its characteristics are sufficiently indicated;

and we believe we do no more than justice when we say that the continuation of the volume is quite answerable to the beginning. And now we ask any man who is familiar with Shakspeare's manner to say whether the changes we have quoted do not bear his impress, not only in mere form, but also in the inner spirit and radiance which underlies and precedes the expression. Take the single word in the first citation from the "Tempest," the substitution "I have with such provision in mine art" for "provision in mine art," do we not all feel at once that here is that subtle Shakspearean faculty at work? And another: "This shadowy desert, unfrequented wood," set aside by "These shadowy desert unfrequented woods." Is not this in the cumulative and large-languaged style of Shakspeare, always disposed to give enough and something over? A line restored in "Love's Labours Lost," "Looking babies in her eyes his passion to declare"—have we not something in the very vein of the sonnets? And this, in the "Merchant of Venice":—

"Not leaving more than the fond eye doth teach,

Which *prizes* not to th' interior, but like the martlet

Builds in the weather," &c.,

for which we now read—"Which *prize* not th' interior"—is not that unmistakably a Shakspearean turn? In the same play:

"I speak too long to *pause* the time,

To eke it and to draw it out at length," &c.

Here we have a characteristic touch of the master in the change of the substantive into a verb, and in his very manner.

Two brief passages further we quote, because they illustrate another peculiarity of the Emendations. They occur in "Othello":

"P. 589. The folios introduce a strange corruption where they convert

And his unbookish jealousy must construe into 'And his unbookish jealousy must *conserve*.' a correction of it is found in manuscript in the folio, 1632; but, in the last line of this page, an emendation of a singular kind is met with. Othello overhearing Cassio laugh, when Iago alludes to Bianca, imagines that Cassio is exulting over him in consequence of his success with Desdemona:—

Do you triumph, Roman? do you triumph?

are the words put into Othello's mouth, 'Roman,' in the old copies, being spelt *Romaine*. Why should Othello call Cassio Roman? Johnson says, because the word 'triumph' brought Roman into his thoughts. This may unquestionably be so; but the manuscript-corrector says that the word Roman (perhaps written without a capital letter in the copy used by the printer) has been entirely mistaken, and that we ought to read,—

Do you triumph *o'er me*? do you triumph?

It is not easy to imagine how *romaine* became *o'er me*, either by mishearing or misprinting; but certainly the allusion to a Roman triumph seems very forced in the mouth of a Moor, and the question, 'Do you triumph *o'er me*?' most fit and natural. Without confirmation, however, it might require considerable courage to insert in the text of our great poet so peculiar an emendation."

SCENE II.

"P. 598. The subsequent passage has produced discussion, arising mainly out of discordance of text in the quarto and folios. In the quarto it is,—

But, alas! to make me
A fixed figure for the time of scorn
To point his slow unmoving finger at.

The folios have 'The fixed figure,' and 'slow and moving,' but both quarto and folios 'time of scorn,' which Rowe properly changed to 'hand of scorn,' as appears by a correction in the folio, 1632. Another emendation in the next line, converts 'slow and moving,' not into 'slow unmoving,' of the quarto, but into 'slowly moving,' the text of no old copy, so that the whole is there thus represented, with manifest improvement:—

But, alas! to make
A fixed figure for the hand of scorn
To point his slowly moving finger at."

What is there of special interest in these passages to confirm our belief of Shakspeare's participation? They simply restore the similes employed to their simplicity and keeping. In the common text of the dramas there are various mixed figures; but such is our confidence in the judgment of Shakspeare, and in the divine harmony and justness of his genius, that we are confident wherever the true text can be ascertained, it will remove every illustration of the kind. There are too many thousand thoroughly sustained similes in Shakspeare to allow us to suppose him at any time so far off his guard as to confuse his illustrations. His mind was of so penetrative and well balanced a quality as to act at all times symmetrically. Wherever Mr. Collier's volume touches, an abuse such as that we refer to disappears, and the two passages we have set before the reader justify our conviction that we not only have the correct rendering, but that it is to Shakspeare himself we are indebted for a self-vindication of one of the prevailing gifts and excellences of his master-hand.

These examples, to say nothing of the very many more which we have not cited, are enough to show that it is "Shakspeare" that we have in these emendations, and not the conjectural mechanism of the commentators. They appear now for the first time—they are to be found in no other edition than that of 1632—they are too numerous to be the product of accident—they show direct communication with an authentic source. What was that source? It could, as we have before alleged, have been no other than the author himself. In what way, by what procedure, is Shakspeare brought to be a party to this corrected edition of his own writings? There is, we all know, an interval of sixteen years between the death of Shakspeare and the date of this folio—1616 and 1632. How, then, is it to be supposed that Shakspeare could himself have contributed to a publication sixteen years after his own death? Many of the plays were published in the poet's life-time; these he no doubt saw; and these we have no fair reason to doubt he must have corrected. The presumption to us appears to be that this folio of 1632 was the property of some neighbor of Shakspeare's—perhaps a retired actor or manager—or of some actor or manager from the city, who resorted to Shakspeare with a view to procure a perfect copy of the plays for use at the theatre. It is not asserted that the emendations are in the handwriting of Shakspeare—that, of course, is impossible—but they may have been transferred from MSS. corrected by him. The other suppositions put forward—we say it with deference to scholarship, long experience, and practised judgment—are clearly untenable. A mere spectator could never have caught the language with sufficient distinctness, unless stage elocution was mar-

vellously more careful and deliberate in those times than in ours, to make corrections of such nicety. A mere member of the company and the prompt-books could have been scarcely depended upon, with their own inherent errors, erasures, and corrections—to say nothing of printers' mistakes. A manager seems to have the highest claim: in command of the prompt-books, a knowledge of the stage performance, and the opportunity of a frequent hearing of each play—conditions which would account for most of the amendments. If we suppose one of this class, and with these advantages, a friend of Shakspeare's, accustomed to consult him in regard to the language and performance of the dramas; a visitor at his house at Stratford-on-Avon, or a resident for some time in that neighborhood, we think we have the most satisfactory view which can be taken of the origin of these numerous notes and emendations. We know that the folio of 1632 came from the country—from what direction it would be interesting to know. Mr. Collier may have it in his power to suggest, or, at least, to furnish us with some hint on that important point. We shall be very happy to lie under further Shakspearean obligations to Mr. Collier. With his past labors, so noble in their spirit, so judicious, and ranging over so wide a field, the world is already acquainted. His last, if not the greatest as far as his individual share is concerned, is at least the most fortunate. By one decisive stroke, as with a Prospero wand, he has changed the whole face of the Shakspearean world—in no spirit of disparagement, but as a necessity of the case, he has discredited all past editions of the great English dramatist, and secured to himself a position so eminent and so firm, that he is not likely, in all time to come, to be dislodged therefrom.

These emendations must and will be accepted in all quarters; they are already entering into the representations of Shakspeare in this country (one of the principal theatres in this city has, at so short notice, adopted the version of "Macbeth," and a public reading of one of the plays before the Musical Fund Society will employ the emendations in "As You Like It"); and they will affect, largely and radically, all the Shakspeare property, of whatever name or kind, throughout the world, marking one of the most comprehensive literary revolutions upon record; and, by one general thrill throughout the realm of print, it is now felt how pervading is the influence of that great writer, with how many interests his sovereign intellect is associated, and with what a train of dependents he takes his circuit round the world!

THE POET MOORE'S DIARY.*

(Continued from our last number.)

It would be unfair to take Moore's Diary, or the familiar, casual, unlabored diary of any writer, as authoritative evidence either against himself or the persons who may happen to be mentioned in it. A great deal must necessarily be put down as memoranda of the passing moment, accidental associations, chance lights or half views, in which the object may appear far other than it really is. The probability is in such a case that we get the exceptional instances as possessing more of novelty and striking effects—the "fears of

* Memoirs, Journal, and Correspondence of Thomas Moore. Vols. III. & IV. Reprinted by Messrs. Appleton.

the brave and follies of the wise." No piquant narrator will trouble himself with the smooth, everyday tenor of life; there must be something extraordinary or eccentric to get a place in the record. This should always be remembered when we are disposed to make up our minds of a man's character from an anecdote.

Nothing lies more than an "anecdote." There is a great probability at once, when we hear that malicious thing, a good story, that it is of a very ancient date, and happened to somebody else, at some distant period or in some foreign country. There is a large class of these stories floating about ready to attach themselves from time to time to any particular celebrity to whom it may be amusing to assign them. They are excellent as apologies, impersonalities of humanity at large, developments of the imagination; but the world is not content to receive them in that way. The note must have a drawer and endorser. The majority of men are not philosophers, but require truth to be pointed and seasoned by the piquancy of personal scandal. The story must be fitted with time and place. Even if we are unacquainted with the man or the country, we like to hear the name and the region. Popular story tellers, it will be observed, are always very particular with the name of the individual to whom the thing happened. The lie circumstantial is always the most dangerous, for though nothing is more easy to vulgar invention than these very particulars, nothing is more convincing to everybody than to listen to them.

Take the following anecdote of Wordsworth in the Moore Diary. Moore is at dinner with Lady Davy, the wife of Sir Humphrey Davy, when—

"We talked of Wordsworth's exceedingly high opinion of himself: and she mentioned that one day, in a large party, Wordsworth, without anything having been previously said that could lead to the subject, called out suddenly from the top of the table to the bottom, in his most epic tone, 'Davy!' and, on Davy's putting forth his head in awful expectation of what was coming, said, 'Do you know the reason why I published the "White Doe" in quarto?' 'No, what was it?' 'To show the world my own opinion of it.'"

Is it fair to suppose that anything like this happened in just this way? Supposing the very words to have been uttered, what were their antecedents? What called forth the remark? At what period of the dinner was it uttered? How much of jest may there not have been in it? The Greeks had a proverb, if we remember rightly, greatly to the social discredit of the man who remembered the next morning very much of the conversation at supper the night before. The cool head of Wordsworth would never ask for this allowance, but his reporters might be somewhat suspicious of themselves.

Still more unfair is this report of Moore, of an incident in which he seeks to "clap the plush" on Wordsworth's shoulders. During a call upon Wordsworth in Paris in 1820—

"Saw Wordsworth's wife; she seems a comfortable sort of person enough. A note came from Lady Mary while I was there, to offer us both seats in her box at the Français, for the evening; and the struggle of Wordsworth (who had already arranged to go with his wife and sister there) between nobility and domesticity was very amusing. After long hesitation, however, and having written one note to say he must attend his wife, *my Lady* carried it, and he wrote another accepting the seat."

There was not much of the fashionable "Toady" about Wordsworth, but there was a great deal of it about Moore. His Diary abounds with it. Wordsworth's motive in preferring one seat to another may not at all have involved any snobbish deference to *my Lady*. Probably very few persons besides Moore would have thought so.

Another entry is devoted to Wordsworth, the great bard, of whom the pleasant little versifier will hardly be accepted as a sufficient interpreter. The scene is at Paris.

"Wordsworth came at half-past eight, and stopped to breakfast. Talked a good deal. Spoke of Byron's plagiarisms from him; the whole third canto of 'Childe Harold' founded on his style and sentiments. The feeling of natural objects which is there expressed, not caught by B. from nature herself, but from him (Wordsworth), and spoiled in the transmission. 'Tintern Abbey' the source of it all; from which same poem too the celebrated passage about Solitude, in the first canto of 'Childe Harold,' is (he said) taken, with this difference, that what is naturally expressed by him, has been worked by Byron into a labored and antithetical sort of declamation. Spoke of the Scottish novels. Is sure they are Scott's. The only doubt he ever had on the question did not arise from thinking them too good to be Scott's, but, on the contrary, from the infinite number of clumsy things in them; common-place contrivances, worthy only of the Minerva press, and such bad vulgar English as no gentleman of education ought to have written. When I mentioned the abundance of them, as being rather too great for one man to produce, he said, that great fertility was the characteristic of all novelists and story-tellers. Richardson could have gone on for ever; his 'Sir Charles Grandison' was, originally, in thirty volumes. Instanced Charlotte Smith, Madame Cottin, &c. &c. Scott, since he was a child, accustomed to legends, and to the exercise of the story-telling faculty; sees nothing to stop him as long as he can hold a pen. Spoke of the very little real knowledge of poetry that existed now; so few men had time to study. For instance, Mr. Canning; one could hardly select a cleverer man; and yet, what did Mr. Canning know of poetry? What time had he, in the busy political life he had led, to study Dante, Homer, &c., as they ought to be studied, in order to arrive at the true principles of taste in works of genius. Mr. Fox, indeed, towards the latter part of his life, made leisure for himself, and took to improving his mind; and, accordingly, all his later public displays bore a greater stamp of wisdom and good taste than his early ones. Mr. Burke alone was an exception to this description of public men: by far the greatest man of his age; not only abounding in knowledge himself, but feeding, in various directions, his most able contemporaries; assisting Adam Smith in his 'Political Economy,' and Reynolds in his 'Lectures on Painting.' Fox, too, who acknowledged that all he had ever learned from books was nothing to what he had derived from Burke. I walked with Wordsworth to the Tuileries: he goes off to-morrow."

How easily the tables might be turned on Moore on the score of tuft-hunting and authorial and personal vanity! Moore, of whom Leigh Hunt once wrote in anticipation of the confessions of the Diary—"Mr. Moore has no faith except in a joke, and a lord, and a good dinner." We are disposed to make the best even of Mr. Moore's vanity and lightness, but the same principle requires us to do justice to the greatness and strength of Wordsworth. Where would the pretty conventional poet of bon-bons and spangles

stand as a social hero were we to judge him by such entries as these?

Troubled by a French St. Domingo lady, not having read *Lalla Rookh* :—

"Got my passports, and set off at half-past four, in the mail, for Calais. My companions two Frenchwomen, one of whom gave me a very interesting account of her sufferings at St. Domingo, and the kindness of the people of Baltimore to her on her arrival there. In talking of the backwardness of the American literature, I said, what would always prevent them from exerting themselves much in that way, was their having already the work done to their hands in the literature of the mother country; and that, in fact, to be *langue epui-see*. Comment, she answered, *une langue epui-see*, when there are such poets as Byron and Scott alive? This silence about me I bore very philosophically: found afterwards she had heard much of my name, but never read me."

Again, by the "cowardly scholars" of Dublin, a terrible fit of indignation :—

"Find that Lord Powerscourt, with whom the King dined the day he embarked from Ireland, was courageous enough to have a song of mine, 'The Prince's day,' sung before him, immediately after 'God save the King,' and that his Majesty was much delighted with it. This song is laudatory, for I thought at the time he deserved such; but upon reading it rather anxiously over, I find nothing in it to be ashamed of. What will those cowardly Scholars of Dublin College say, who took such pains, at their dinner the other day, to avoid mentioning my name; and who after a speech of some Sir Noodle boasting of the poetical talent of Ireland, drank as the utmost they could venture, '*Maturin* and the *rising Poets of Erin*,' what will these white-livered slaves say to the exhibition at Lord Powerscourt's! The only excuse I can find for the worse than Eastern prostration into which my countrymen have grovelled during these few last weeks is, that they have so long been slaves, they know no better, and that it is not their own fault if they know no medium between brawling rebellion and foot-licking idolatry."

With such records as these *passim*.

"At ten Lady E. Fielding called to take me to the Duchesse de Broglie's. Repeated my Neapolitan verses to her and Fielding. She said they were like sparks of fire running through her in all directions."

"A good deal of conversation with Lady E. Stuart, who told me that '*Lalla Rookh*' had been translated into German. It has now appeared in the French, Italian, German, and Persian languages. Lady Saltoun told me that a gentleman had just said to her, 'If Mr. Moore wishes to be made much of,—if Mr. Moore wishes to have his head turned, let him go to Berlin; there is nothing else talked of there but "*Lalla Rookh*."'"

Moore's sensitiveness to personal compliments, and anxiety about his literary reputation, has a strange look from a man of the world, who might be supposed to understand fully the accidents and doubtful value of such things. But the wit who could make others wince so readily is the first to feel the pin's point himself. He is quite nervous about the "*Loves of the Angels*."

AN ALARM TO AN AUTHOR.

"Dec. 37, 1822.—An answer from Lady Denegal, with the following sentence in it, which, from the state of nervousness I had got into about my book, came upon me like a thunder-bolt. 'You bid me not say anything about the "*Angels*," but I must so far disobey you as to say that I am both vexed and disappointed, and I think that you will feel I am right in not allow-

ing Barbara to read it.' I never remember anything that gave me much more pain than this. It seemed at once to ring the death-knell of my poem. This at once accounted for the dead silence of the Longmans since the publication, for the non-appearance of the second edition, which I was taught to expect would be announced the third day, for Lord Lansdowne's reserve on the subject, for everything. My book, then, was considered (why or wherefore it was in vain to inquire) improper, and what I thought the best, as well as the most moral thing I had ever written, was to be doomed to rank with the rubbish of Carlisle and Co. for ever. Bowles, who was with me at the time, endeavored most good-humoredly to soothe me, and, though he had not read the poem, gallantly made himself responsible that I could not have written anything to bring upon me such a censure. It was all in vain. I wrote off to the Longmans to beg they would tell me the worst at once, and to my mother, to prepare her for the failure which I now considered as certain. In this mood Bowles left me, and in about an hour after, luckily for my peace of mind, Lord Lansdowne and Byng arrived. Their coming was like an avatar to me. Lord L. declared, in the warmest manner, that he thought the poem not only beautiful, but perfectly unexceptionable and pure, and that he had no hesitation in preferring it to anything I had ever written. Byng too (who two or three weeks since had expressed himself with some degree of alarm about the title), told me that, on reading the poem, he had instantly written off to some friends who felt the same apprehensions as himself, that 'it might be safely trusted in the nursery.' It is inconceivable the relief all this was to me, and not less so to my darling Bessy, who had seen the wretched state I was thrown into by Lady D.'s letter, and had in vain employed her good sense and sweetness to counteract its effect."

There were other disappointments, it seems, to the author's life, one of which is sufficiently ludicrous.

A DECIDED TAKE-IN.

"Went into town pretty early to make some calls; one of them on the bookseller who some time ago sent me an English poem, called 'Cleon,' and has now written to say that as I was pleased to express approbation of it, he trusts I shall not be less interested in its success for knowing that it was written by a young lady of seventeen, now his wife. A thorough take-in; the first symptoms of which were his saying *Elle est actuellement plus âgée*; and the lady's own appearance in a few minutes quite dispelled any hope I might have had of seeing the youthful muse he led me to expect; the lady being a rather elderly Jewess."

Leaving Moore's character to take care of itself in his writings and acts, where his honorable love of independence is a thing never to be forgotten, we linger over the associations and wit of his friends preserved in the Diary.

SYDNEY SMITH AFTER AN UNPLEASANT CEREMONIAL.

"April 19, 1823.—Dined at Phillips's. Drove first, by mistake, to his son's in Hill Street, where the servant who opened the door said, 'Perhaps, sir, it is to Mr. Phillips's of Mount Street you meant to go, for we are going to dine there too.' Company, Sidney Smith, the George Phillipses, the Ordes, the Macdonalds, &c. Sydney Smith had that day gone through the ceremony at Lambeth, which it appears all persons must do upon receiving a second living: they are shut up by themselves, with pen and ink, and the choice of four subjects given them, on one of which they must write a Latin prose Thesis. This is really a

greater tax upon pluralists than I had supposed to exist; for nine out of ten reverends must be sadly posed by the task. Not that their examiner is likely to be very strict. He says doubtless of these pluralists, *Ubi plura nitent non ego paucis offendar maculis*. Found in Mrs. G. Phillips, whom I sat next, an old Derbyshire acquaintance, one of Lord Waterpark's daughters. Smith and I walked home together."

CONSTABLE AND THE AUTHOR OF WAVERLEY.

"June 8, 1823.—Breakfasted with Rogers; Constable, of Edinburgh, the great publisher, and Bowles, of the party. In talking of the craft of bookselling, Constable said, 'Mr. Moore, if you will let me have a poem from your pen, I will engage to sell thrice as many copies as the Longmans ever did, even of "Lalla Rookh." Very encouraging this, and comes seasonably to put me in better conceit with myself. In conversing with me afterwards, he intimated his strong wish that I should connect myself with the "Edinburgh Review." In talking of Walter Scott, and the author of "Waverley," he continually forgot himself, and made them the same person. Has had the original MS. of the novels presented to him by the author, in forty-nine volumes, written with his own hand; very few corrections. Says the author to his knowledge has already received more than a hundred thousand pounds for his novels alone. Walter Scott apparently very idle: the only time he is known to begin to study is about three hours in the morning before breakfast; the rest of the day he is at the disposal of everybody, and rarely retires at night till others do."

AN OFFER OF THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

"June 21, 1823.—Called, by appointment, on Constable: long conversation with him; most anxious that I should come to Edinburgh; and promises that I shall prosper there. The "Review" (he told me in confidence) is sinking; Jeffrey has not time enough to devote to it; would be most happy to have me in his place; but the resignation must come from himself, as the proprietors could not propose it to him. Jeffrey has 700*l.* a year for being editor, and the power of drawing 2800*l.* for contributors. Told him that I could not think of undertaking the editorship under 1000*l.* a year, as I should, if I undertook it, devote myself almost entirely to it, and less than 1000*l.* would not pay me for this. He seemed to think that if Jeffrey was once out of the way, there would be no difficulty about terms; read me a letter he had just received from his partner on the subject, in which he says, 'Moore is out of all sight the best man we could have; his name would revive the reputation of the "Review;" he would continue to us our connection with the old contributors, and the work would become more literary and more regular; but we must get him gradually into it; and the first step is to persuade him to come to Edinburgh.' All this (evidently not intended to be seen by me) is very flattering."

THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES AND LORD HOLLAND.

"Lord John called upon me; walked out. Dinner at Rogers's to meet Barnes, the editor of 'The Times'; company, Lords Lansdowne and Holland, Luttrell, Tierney, and myself. Barnes very quiet and unproductive; neither in his look nor manner giving any idea of the strong powers which he unquestionably possesses. Dinner very agreeable; Lord Holland, though suffering with the gout, all gaiety and anecdote. A number of stories told of Lord North. Of the night he anticipated the motion for his removal, by announcing the resignation of the Ministry; his having his carriage, when none of the rest had, and saying, laughingly, 'You see what it is to be in the secret;' invincible good humor. Fox's speech on the

Scrutiny, one of his best, and reported so well, that Lord Holland said, 'In reading it I think I hear my uncle's voice.' Lord H.'s story of the man stealing Mr. Fox's watch, and Gen. Fox laughing at him about it, &c. &c. Lord H., too, told of a gentleman missing his watch in the pit one night, and charging Barrington, who was near him, with having stolen it. Barrington, in a fright, gave up a watch to him instantly; and the gentleman, on returning home, found his own watch on his table, not having taken it out with him; so that, in fact, he had robbed Barrington of some other person's watch."

SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.

"Dined with Watson Taylor: company, C. Ellis, Planta, Wilmot (the Under Secretary), Jekyll, Lord Anerum, Lady Sandwich, the Davys, &c. &c. Got near Jekyll and Wilmot, and found it agreeable enough. Story of Lord Ellenborough's saying to a witness, 'Why, you are an industrious fellow; you must have taken pains with yourself; no man was ever naturally so stupid.' Conversation about the negroes. Davy's opinion that they are decidedly an inferior race, and that it would take many generations of high culture to bring them to a level with whites. It required, he said, forty generations to make a wild duck a tame one; and to bring the negroes to the perfection of civilized whites, would take nearly the same lapse of time. Sir Humphrey talks wildly sometimes, and *de omni scibili*."

BYRON'S FUNERAL.

"July 12, 1824.—Was with Rogers at half-past eight. Set off for George Street, Westminster, at half-past nine. When I approached the house, and saw the crowd assembled, felt a nervous trembling come over me, which lasted till the whole ceremony was over; thought I should be ill. Never was at a funeral before, but poor Curran's. The riotous curiosity of the mob, the bustle of the undertakers, &c., and all the other vulgar accompaniments of the ceremony, mixing with my recollections of him who was gone, produced a combination of disgust and sadness that was deeply painful to me. Hobbouse, in the active part he had to sustain, showed a manly, unaffected feeling. Our coachful consisted of Rogers, Campbell, Colonel Stanhope, Orlando (the Greek deputy), and myself. Saw a lady crying in a barouche as we turned out of George Street, and said to myself, 'Bless her heart, whoever she is!' There were, however, few respectable persons among the crowd; and the whole ceremony was anything but what it ought to have been. Left the hearse as soon as it was off the stones, and returned home to get rid of my black clothes, and try to forget, as much as possible, the wretched feelings I had experienced in them. Stanhope said in the coach, in speaking of the strange mixture of avarice and profusion which Byron exhibited, that he had heard himself say, 'He was sure he should die a miser and a bigot.' Hobbouse, to-day, mentioned as remarkable, the change in Byron's character when he went to Greece. Finding that there was ardour enough among them, but that steadiness was what they wanted, he instantly took a quiet and passive tone, listening to the different representations made to him, and letting his judgment be properly informed, before he either urged or took any decided course of action. Campbell's conversation in very bad taste; among other subjects talked of poor Bowles, calling him 'rascal,' &c., upon which Rogers took him up very properly. Fixed with Stanhope to come to breakfast with Rogers on Wednesday. Walked with R. into the park, and met a soldier's funeral, which, in the full state my heart was in, affected me strongly. The air the bugles played was 'I'm wearing awa, like snow-wreaths in the thaw.'"

SHERIDAN ON VANITY.

"They talk (says S. one day to Lord H.) of avarice, lust, ambition, as great passions. It is a mistake; they are little passions. Vanity is the great commanding passion of all. It is this that produces the most grand and heroic deeds, or impels to the most dreadful crimes. Save me but from this passion, and I can defy the others. They are mere urchins, but this is a giant."

PYRAMID LAMBERT.

"Bowles called. Asked him to return to dinner with us, which he did. Is going pell-mell into controversy again; Roscoe has exposed a carelessness of his with regard to one of Pope's letters, which he is going to write a pamphlet to explain. Mentioned an acquaintance of his, of the name of Lambert, who took a fancy to go to Egypt. When he came back, some one said to him, 'Well, Lambert, what account of the Pyramids?' 'The Pyramids! what are they! I never heard of them!' Was called, ever after, Pyramid Lambert."

LEARNED ENOUGH FOR DR. COX.

"Talked of Jeremy Bentham; calls his walk after dinner his 'paulo-post prandial vibration.'"

A SEVERE JEST.

"Scott mentioned as a curious circumstance that, at the same moment, the Duke of Wellington should have been living in one of Buonaparte's palaces, and Buonaparte in the Duke's old lodgings at St. Helena; had heard the Duke say, laughingly to some one who asked what commands he had to St. Helena, 'Only tell Bony that I hope he finds my old lodgings at Longwood as comfortable as I find his in the Champs Elysées.'"

THE TELL-TALE.*

A LITTLE volume of short tales which appeared originally in the "Boston Traveller." They are by the author of "A Peep at Number Five," and abound in humor and good sense. The topics are chiefly those involving the success and happiness of families starting in life with their own way to make through the world; but we have in addition to these a capital sketch of a countryman's Fourth of July adventures with his family in Boston, and a half comic, half romantic story of "Old Witch Moll and her Brown Pitcher," which is one of the pleasantest and best finished sketches we have met with for a long time. We will give the reader a passage. Moll, it is to be premised, is an old woman living in a solitary cabin with a pretty niece; Captain Tim a doughty militia officer, and farmer of mature years, well to do in the world, in passing this cabin at night, gets his wagon "stuck" in a slough. By the interposition of the pretty damsel, old Moll starts him off. The captain is smitten, procures a license, and woos and wins in the following expeditious manner.

"The sun made a glorious morning of it, bathing wagon and driver, dog and horses, in a cheerful light, drying up the roads, and bringing out many singers on the still leafless branches by the way-side. Since the same hour on the day before, how much had happened to the commander-in-chief of the military forces of R—I Event had succeeded event, thought followed thought, and plan trod hard upon plan. His heart beat with unwonted excitement,—faster and still faster, as Aunt Moll's hovel came in sight.

"A cheerful smoke now curled gracefully up from the huge throat of the old chimney, and the bleached pile of bones which lay around

it looked far less formidable with the sun shining on them. To soften the sombre look of the pile of logs, a young girl stood by them, dressed in short gown and petticoat, with a blue handkerchief bound over her head. It was Luce,—Captain Tim knew her in an instant. Now, he had been trying all the morning to arrange his thoughts a little, to make out what he should say first, but he had not been able to satisfy himself. He had never been courting in his younger days.

"Somehow it did not seem to him as if it would be exactly the right beginning to show the license first, and he was all in confusion as to what he ought to do. He looked down on his dirty frock and boots,—how much Captain Tim would have given, just then, for his gold epaulets!

"Good morning, Miss Lucy; I hope you're well this morning."

"Lucy lifted up the same laughing face which had bewitched our hero at dead of night.

"So you got along, did you?" said she, snapping a pair of black eyes.

"Yes, and I suppose I ought to thank you for it."

"Now came a dead pause. Captain Tim fumbled in his frock pockets,—he grasped his license; in his extremity, he was just about handing it out to her, when his fingers encountered the tobacco.

"Oh, I forgot," said he; "I brought Aunt Moll a present; it's in the wagon. I'll get it in a minute." Down he ran after it, and, with snuff and tobacco, propitiatory offerings to the goddess within, he approached the hovel. By this time Lucy had vanished, but the door stood wide open.

"Good-morning," said Captain Tim to the old crone, who was smoking in the chimney-corner; "I thought as I was going by, I'd just drop in and leave you a little present, for helping me along last night."

"You lie!" said Moll; "it's Luce ye're arter, and you know it is."

"Well, so it is, granny. You do know everything, don't ye? I've got the license safe in my pocket. I want to marry her, and take her home with me. I've got a nice farm, I'm well to do in the world, and I s'pose I've sowed my wild oats. I can give her a good home, and take good care on her. Try your snuff and 'baecy, will ye?"

"Moll refilled her pipe, and, looking straight into the ashes, rocked to and fro a long time in silence. Captain Tim grew very impatient.

"I know all about ye," said she, at last; "you may as well have her as anybody, far's I know. She will marry some day,—more fool she,—she's got it in her. Luce,—Luce!"

"Lucy came at the call. 'Captain Tim, here, wants you to marry him. You may do as you're a mind to about it. What say, eh? Speak out—don't act like a simpleton!'

"Lucy, with her sparkling eyes, looked in Captain Tim's good-natured face. Smile met smile, and heart met heart.

"What do ye say?" roared Moll; "he don't want to keep his team waiting all day."

"Yes, I will marry him," said Lucy.

"Well, then, be off with ye now, Mr. Captain. Don't waste time a courting. You'll have enough of her arter you're married. Off with ye, and be back here two weeks from to-day. Ye a'n't such a fool as to suppose your license will do you any good yet. See to it, now, ye don't make any talk about it, or it will go hard with ye. The gal will have nothing but the clothes on her back; I tell ye that beforehand. Mind ye, too, ye're to bring no parson to darken these doors."

"We can go down town to get married," said the captain.

"Suit yourself about that; it's all one to me," said Moll, "since she will go. Ye're a pair of fools, both of ye!"

"I've had her name put down on this paper Miss Lucy Buswell. Is that right, granny?"

"Good as any name," said Moll, with a grunting kind of chuckle.

"All reg'lar, then?"

"Reg'lar," said Moll, with a huge puff.

"I'll be here, then, two weeks from to-day," says Captain Tim.

"See that you don't come after then, that's all; so off with you, now!"

"Captain Tim could think of nothing further to remark. He moved towards the door. Lucy followed him. He looked once more in her eyes; they were swimming in tears. He stopped on the outer step; he wanted to say something. 'Don't cry,' said he, in a whisper; 'I'll be good to ye.' Her head dropped a little, and Captain Tim somehow—he never could tell exactly how himself—found his lips on her cheek. Twenty-five years had it been since his lip had touched so soft a cheek;—then he kissed his last farewell to his mother.

"Luce!" growled out old Moll. Captain Tim started as if shot; he ran to his team, he whistled to Bowsen, he put on the lash, and was soon among his own familiar hills."

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ONONDAGA SALT SPRINGS, TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE, MARCH 22, 1853.

THIS Report is more valuable to the community than any of its predecessors, because it contains notes of a trip made by Prof. Cook of Albany, for the purpose of inspecting some of the most famous salt works of the old country. It may not be uninteresting to the readers of this paper to be put in possession of some of the facts presented by Prof. Cook. Of the salt works in England, 79 are in Cheshire, 1 in Lancashire, 2 in Staffordshire, 13 in Worcestershire, and 2 small ones in Durham, making 97 in all. These works contain upwards of 1,000,000 feet of pannage, which, together with the machinery and other appliances, 600 flats, trows, barges, and boats to prosecute the traffic, has been estimated as representing a capital of £1,000,000, and employing upwards of 3,000 men. They yield on an average 800,000 tons of salt per annum; of which one half is exported to the United States and Canada, the Baltic, the north of Scotland and Ireland, and the remainder is consumed at home in alkali manufactories, for domestic purposes, and as manure.

The most extensive salt works are in Cheshire; although strong brine and fossil salt are found in the counties as far south as Worcestershire. In Cheshire the facility of access to market has concentrated the manufacture of salt almost entirely in the towns of Northwich and Winsford. These places are situated on the river Weaver, which empties into the Mersey, 15 miles from Liverpool. Northwich is 30 miles from Liverpool, and Winsford 6 miles further. The coal mines of Lancashire are within 30 miles of Northwich, and by means of canals and railroads, coal from these mines is easily and cheaply delivered at various points on the Weaver and Mersey, whence it can be carried directly to the doors of the salt works. With these advantages for cheap manufacture and convenience of access to one of the best markets in the world, it is not surprising that the trade in salt should come to be very extensive.

In France salt is made from sea-water by solar evaporation at various places on the Atlantic coast; and on the Mediterranean

*The Tell-Tale; or Home Secrets, told by Old Travellers. By N. Trusta. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co.

about Marseilles and Toulon; and from salt springs in different parts of the country.

Prof. Cook found some difference existing between the European and American systems of manufacturing salt, the description of which, as being uninteresting to the general reader, we will omit. With respect to evaporation Mr. C. says, "one pound of Lackawanna coal will evaporate 8.56 pounds of water. One pound of Liverpool coal will evaporate 6.95 pounds of water. A cord of good hard wood is worth two thirds as much as a ton of Lackawanna coal. The English and French brines contain 25 per cent. of salt: the evaporation of 3 pounds of water produces 1 pound of salt. The Onondaga brines contain 17 per cent.; and the evaporation of 4.88 pounds of water produces a pound of salt."

From a comparative table of the Onondaga, Cheshire, Dieuze, and Rotterdam brine, and the average number of bushels of salt obtained from evaporation through the use of wood, Lackawanna, Liverpool, and bituminous coal, Mr. C. concludes that the foreign methods do not indicate any greater economy of fuel than our own. "Indeed," he says, "some of the results in using wood are considerably above what it has been thought fuel was capable of doing. The average yield of salt at Onondaga for this year, I am assured, will not fall below 50 bushels to the cord of wood. This is a larger amount than has been obtained in former years, which is to be attributed to the greater care used in managing the fires. The inference to be drawn from it in connexion with preceding facts is, that our manufacturers are to look for improvements in their art to their own skill and intelligence, rather than to the adoption of any methods which are in use in other countries, and under very different circumstances."

We have supposed that lime was indispensable in settling brine. Mr. C. decidedly thinks that it injures the salt by making the grain soft, causing it to drain slowly and imperfectly, increasing its tendency to absorb moisture and to cake, and increasing the amount of chloride of calcium. In the precipitation of oxide of iron from the brine, alum is recommended, the cost of which is not more than that of lime.

In a previous report, Mr. C. states the results of some experiments in clearing brine by the use of common clay. The properties of this substance have been greatly overlooked, and seem to be now for the first time receiving due attention. The writer of an interesting article in the Quarterly Review, on the London water, says—"Clay deprives the rain water, by a chemical action, not as yet thoroughly understood, of its organic impregnations, and will even deodorize it when putrid. So strong indeed is the deodorizing property of clay, that if water containing putrid urine or the stinking residuum of steeped flax, be passed through a ten or twelve inch layer of ordinary loam, its offensive taste and odor are entirely removed, and it issues so bright and pure as to be actually drinkable. Even black sewage-water, thus treated, leaves the whole of its impurities behind in the soil, which it thus greatly enriches, and comes through in a pure and potable condition. Nor are these the only powers of this common-place, yet curious substance, clay. If water, abundantly contaminated with chalk (carbonate of lime), be made to trickle

through a layer of clay, or of loam, which is a mixture of sand and clay, the lime of the chalk will be detained by the clay, and the water will issue almost pure. If, again, a sample of ordinary spring water, containing various salts of lime, magnesia, potash, soda, &c., be passed through clay or loam, the water on issuing will be found free both from the acid and the bases of the carbonates (such as chalk), and free from the bases earthy or alkaline of the other salts, such as the sulphates, muriates, &c., but not free from their acids, which the clay has no power to separate, and which it, therefore, leaves in the water combined with as much lime as is necessary for their neutralization. There curious facts are due to the able researches of Professor Way." A valuable fact to the manufacturers of solar salt, is drawn from a record of scientific observations appended to the report, in which it is shown that the annual evaporation from the surface of water is greater than the fall of rain.

An interesting statement is annexed to the report of the superintendent of the numbers of bushels of salt made at the Onondaga salt springs since June 20, 1797. From this it appears that there was a steady increase from 25,474 bushels in 1797, to 5,083,369 bushels in 1849; since which date the number of bushels has diminished. The amount inspected during the year 1852 was 4,922,533 bushels, being 308,416 bushels more than in 1851.

The relation between butter and cheese, and salt, justifies the insertion of the tabular statement at the close of the report, by which the curious may learn that of 79,766,094 pounds of cheese made in the state in 1850, Oneida county furnished the most; her proportion being 3,963,392 pounds. And of 49,741,413 pounds of butter, Herkimer county supplied 9,548,009 pounds.

Such magnificent numbers give an aspect of sublimity to these common objects on our tables.

LITERATURE, BOOKS OF THE WEEK, ETC.

THE sixth annual meeting of the American Medical Society has been a prominent event of the last week in the city; memorable no less from the full attendance of distinguished members of the faculty from all parts of the country, the fullness of their proceedings, the general and genial hospitality of the profession in the city, and the melancholy disaster which awaited the close. At the opening of the session in Bleecker St. nearly five hundred members were in attendance. Dr. Jonathan Knight of Connecticut was chosen President. Reports for publication were presented by Prof. Meigs; Dr. Emerson of Philadelphia, on the effects of upward radiation of heat as a source of malaria; Dr. Davis of Chicago, on Medical Literature; Dr. Joseph M. Smith of New York, as chairman of the committee on voluntary essays, announced fifteen received, and premiums were awarded to the authors of two of them; Dr. Waldo G. Burnett of Boston, on the Cell, its Pathology &c., and Washington L. Attree of Philadelphia, on Fibrous Diseases of the Uterus. Various discussions were held on Medical Education, Sanitary Regulations, &c. On Thursday, after the adjournment, a munificent entertainment was given to the visitors by the physicians of the city at the Metropolitan Hall, at which Dr. Willard Parker presided, the effective

arrangements for the reception, &c., having been provided by a committee of which Dr. F. Campbell Stewart was chairman. It was scarcely possible that a greater liberality and more genuine courtesy could have been displayed than on this occasion. The costly banquet was a scene of warm congratulation and festivity. The speeches were brief and to the point from Dr. Knight, the Rev. Dr. Osgood, Dr. Francis, Dr. Welford of Virginia, Dr. Mitchell of Philadelphia, Dr. Bond of Maryland, and Dr. Stevens of this city, Dr. O. W. Holmes of Boston supporting his high reputation for *bonhomie* and readiness by a copy of verses of a sentimental character, not published in the reports, but which went off, from the altitude of one of the centre dining tables, to the ladies in the gallery with quite a brilliant explosion. On Friday those who remained in the city visited the Institutions on Blackwell's Island. While these last proceedings were taking place in the city, another scene had occurred on the homeward route of a considerable portion of the guests in the railway disaster of Norwalk, by which no less than six members of the Association perished. This miserable sacrifice of human life has created a feeling in the community which will not, we are confident, like too many acts of the kind, be suffered to pass lightly and be forgotten. Sorrow for the sufferers, and indignation at the cause of the calamity, have only one means of relief, the most stringent precautions and security for the future. The railway communications of the country have outstripped the reflection and knowledge of legislatures, who it is to be hoped will now guard the public safety by regulations adequate to this vast and indispensable mode of travel. No preliminary expenses should be considered too great which will insure safety in the construction and management of roads, and no penalties too severe which may add to the vigilance of all concerned in their conduct.

Dr. O. W. Holmes has concluded his course of Lectures on the English Poets of the Nineteenth Century, in Boston, with a general review of his topic, his mode of treatment, the necessity he was under of "adapting his discourses to an audience, who must at all events be kept awake; not to the readers of a review, who might halt at various stages in their progress through a critical essay, and indulge in refreshing pauses of sleep." Poetry, in his view, adds the *Boston Transcript*, was "the expression of beauty in words that harmonized with the beautiful." In classifying the poets, he divided them into seven grand groups, viz. Classic Sentimentalists, of whom Campbell and Rogers were the leading representatives; Poets of Passion, with Byron at the head; Descriptive Realists, of the School of Crabbe; Romantic Realists, represented by Scott, Southey, and, lower down, by Macaulay; Philosophical Realists, represented by Wordsworth; Romantic Idealists, whose type was Coleridge; and Philosophical Idealists, covering Shelley, Tennyson, and the Brownings. He likewise noticed some minor groups, which would not readily submit to be included in the larger divisions.

A novel feature in the course was the delivery of an original poem of his own at the close of each lecture. We trust to have an opportunity, early next season, of listening to these lectures in this city. The Mer-

cantile Association would be fortunate, we think, in securing their delivery as a pendant to the Thackeray Course on the Novelists.

Mr. J. R. Bartlett, at the close of an account before the Historical Society of the rather slender stock of antiquities on the route of the Mexican boundary line, gave this significant history of the newly talked of Mesilla Valley:—

"Some surprise has naturally been expressed, by those who feel an interest in the movements of Gen. Lane, in not finding the name of Mesilla on any of the maps of New Mexico, Texas, or the adjoining Mexican States. A brief history of this place may, therefore, possess an interest at this time.

"Mesilla is the derivative of the Spanish word *mesa* table, i. e. table land or plateau, and is applied to a lesser plateau in the valley of the Rio Grande, beneath that of the great *mesa* plateau, or table land, which extends for several hundred miles in all directions from the Rio Grande. It means, therefore, little plateau, or little table land. It is situated on the western side of the Rio Grande, about fifty miles above El Paso, in latitude about 32 degrees 18 minutes north, and until the year 1850 it was without an inhabitant.

"Immediately preceding, and after the war with Mexico, the Mexican population occupying the eastern bank of the Rio Grande in Texas and New Mexico were greatly annoyed by the encroachments of the Americans, and by their determined efforts to despoil them of their landed property. This was done by the latter either settling among them, or in some instances forcibly occupying their dwellings and cultivated spots. In most cases, however, it was done by putting 'Texas head-rights' on their property. These head-rights were grants issued by the State of Texas, generally embracing 640 acres, or a mile square, though they sometimes covered very large tracts. They were issued to persons who had served in her wars, as are military land warrants, and also to original settlers, which certificates or 'head-rights' are still bought and sold in that State. The owner of them may locate his land where he pleases, unless previously occupied, or in lawful possession of another.

"With these land certificates, or 'head-rights,' many Americans flocked to the valley of the Rio Grande, and located them in many instances on property which for a century had been in the quiet possession of the descendants of the old Spanish colonists. The latter, to avoid litigation, and sometimes standing in fear of their lives, abandoned their homes, and sought a refuge on the Mexican side of the river. Dona Ana, a modern town, on the eastern bank of the Rio Grande, fifty miles above El Paso, and near the 'initial point,' being a well-located and desirable place, and moreover selected by the United States for one of its military posts, became an attractive point for speculators, and was in consequence pounced upon by them, and covered by the 'Texan head-rights,' or land warrants. Whether the Mexican occupants of the town and lands adjacent were the lawful owners or not it is needless to state; it is sufficient to say that they had long been in undisturbed possession. They now became alarmed. Litigations commenced. Some applied to the authorities of New Mexico, Texas, or the United States, for protection. Failing to obtain it, in despair several hundred abandoned their property and homes, determined to seek an asylum within the territory of Mexico, preferring the very uncertain protection they could obtain there to remaining as citizens of the United States.

"With this resolution a spot was selected on the opposite or western side of the river,

eight or ten miles below Dona Ana, which, it was believed, would be within the limits of Mexico. In the month of May, 1850, this persecuted people established themselves, and named the place 'La Mesilla,' i. e. the little table. To increase the colony the government of Mexico offered to give lands to other actual settlers, which offer induced many large numbers of dissatisfied Mexicans living in New Mexico and in the small settlements along the Rio Grande, in Texas, to remove there. More than half the population of Dona Ana removed to Mesilla within a year.

"When the boundary line was agreed upon, in December, 1850, and it became certain that La Mesilla was south of the boundary line, according to the treaty map, their fears were removed, and a day was set apart for public rejoicing. The day came, and the event was celebrated by firing of cannon and a grand ball, which many from El Paso attended. After this, the population increased much on account of the inducements of land, and in October, 1852, the Prefect of El Paso stated that the population numbered 1,900 souls.

"Very few Americans ever settled there—in fact, none but traders, and it is probable that there never were twenty altogether.

"Last summer some speculators attempted to practise the same impositions upon them as were practised when they were citizens of New Mexico by claiming their lands. This created great dissatisfaction, and they then threatened to leave and again become citizens of the United States. At this time some mischievous persons put an idea into their heads to deny the jurisdiction of Mexico, and thus save their property, and this is doubtless the foundation of Governor Lane's assertion that they desire to become re-annexed to New Mexico."

Mr. Bryant, in a recent letter to the *Evening Post*, dated Smyrna, March 29, pays this tribute to the American Missionaries at Beyroot:—

"They are learned and laborious men. One of them, Dr. Eli Smith, distinguished as an Orientalist, is preparing, with the help of a well educated native, a new Arabic translation of the Scriptures from the original languages, the one now used being from the Vulgate. Mr. Calhoun has a school for young men, at Abeih, on the western declivity of Lebanon, in which a regular course of four years' instruction is given, ending with some of the higher branches of mathematics and chemistry. All the pupils learn English, and some of them Greek. They are twenty-two in number, and one of them is a Druse Emir. Dr. Deforest has at Beyroot a girls' school, of sixteen pupils, in which he is assisted by Mrs. Deforest. I was present at a part of the annual examination of this school. The girls acquitted themselves well in English composition—and the specimens of their drawing exhibited, did them great credit. They are clever geographers, I hear. They are from families of different denominations of Christians, and their parents, brothers, and sisters were present, their faces shining with the delight they felt at seeing their little friends becoming such accomplished scholars. The girls were neatly dressed; a spencer or bodice of printed calico, a skirt of the same material, but of lighter color, and a tarboosh or red cap, with a blue tassel, round the lower part of which was wound a gay-colored handkerchief, were the principal articles of their costume. They had mostly a healthy look, fine large black eyes, and large full lips. Some of them had a decidedly Jewish cast of countenance, though there were no Jewesses among them.

"Both these schools are successful, and on them depend, I should suppose, the only

hopes of the mission in Syria. The school for girls is so much in favor, that more persons apply for admission than can be received. As soon as the education of one of these girls is completed, her hand is immediately sought in marriage by some wealthy suitor. An impulse has been given to female education which is likely to spread over the whole country, and as mothers have, far more than fathers, the forming of the minds and dispositions of their children, may entirely change the character of the population, almost before the world is aware of the means by which the change is effected. The demand for female education has induced the Sisters of Charity, a Catholic order, to found a rival school, which I hear is largely attended."

The *Christian Examiner* for May has several theological papers, a sketchy resumé of the progress of the Sandwich Islands, an article on the theological relations of Man and Nature by the Rev. O. B. Frothingham, with a suggestive criticism on De Quincey, by Mr. Tuckerman, in which a prevalent trait of his author, a certain direct but partial movement of thought, is thus happily described:—

"Instances of this partial view of a question and exaggerated statement are, indeed, of frequent occurrence. Thus, in his article on the 'Temperance Reform,' he is doubtless correct in attributing the appetite for stimulants partly to a morbid condition of the digestive organs; but in his desire to make out a case, he is quite unjust to the average English cookery. Every traveller knows that joints of the best mutton and beef, roasted to a turn, are more easily obtained in Great Britain than elsewhere; and that the anomalous *cuisine* of the Continent is far less conducive to health. Again, he considers the night ascent of Etna to view the sunrise a traveller's folly,—because that glorious spectacle is witnessed to better advantage from a plain; but he does not take cognizance of the real motive of the excursion, which is to behold the shadow of the cone thrown over Sicily, and to watch the gradual unfolding of one of the most varied and extensive landscapes in Europe. He demurs to the popular estimate of Pope's correctness, and indicates obscurity and errors of grammar to sustain his opinion, without recognizing the true ground of this reputation of the poet, which doubtless lies in a versification far more smooth, well emphasized, and sonorous than that of his predecessors. It is in making 'sound an echo to the sense,' that Pope became renowned as a correct bard. In the same incomplete way he discusses the poetry of Keats, declaring that Endymion is all tinsel and filigree, while Hyperion is a magnificent fragment; whereas in the former poem there are, with many affectations, signs of high promise, images and descriptive touches of the same beautiful kind as adorn, with less alloy, Keats's later effort. He denies particular merit to Godwin's 'Caleb Williams,' and even questions its popularity, giving a very facetious outline of the plot, and scarcely alluding to its distinctive claim, which is that of a purely metaphysical interest, and the successful experiment of constructing a story that absorbs the reader without a love-plot,—which, previous to its appearance, was deemed essential to a novel."

The *Household Words*, in a sketch of the "Voluntary Contributor," lets us behind the scenes in the preparation of that admirable miscellany:

"His name is Legion. He writes everything—on every description of paper, and with

every conceivable and inconceivable quality of illegible ink. Like the players in Hamlet, nothing comes amiss to him; 'tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, tragical-historical, tragical-comical, historical-pastoral, scene indivisible, or poem unlimited.' But if he particularly excel in any one species of composition, it is perhaps, as to our experience, in the poem unlimited.

"He has a general idea that literature is the easiest amusement in the world. He figures a successful author as a radiant personage whose whole time is devoted to idleness and pastime—who keeps a prolific mind in a sort of corn-sieve, and lightly shakes a bushel of it out sometimes, in an odd half hour after breakfast. It would amaze his incredulity beyond all measure, to be told that such elements as patience, study, punctuality, determination, self-denial, training of mind and body, hours of application and seclusion, to produce what he reads in seconds, enter into such a career. He has no more conception of the necessity of entire devotion to it, than he has of an eternity from the beginning. Correction and re-correction in the blotted manuscript, consideration, new observation, the patient musing of many reflections, experiences, and imaginings for one minute purpose, and the patient separation from the heap of all the fragments that will unite to serve it—these would be Unicorns or Griffins to him—fables altogether. Hence, he can often afford to dispense with the low rudiments of orthography; and of the principles of composition it is obvious that he need know nothing.

"He is fond of applying himself to literature in a leisure hour, or 'a few leisure moments.' He 'throws his thoughts' upon paper. He rarely sends what he considers his best production. His best production is not copied—somehow, it seldom is. He is aware that there are many remarkable defects in the manuscript he encloses, but if we will insert that, 'on the usual terms,' he has another at home that will astonish us. He is not at all vain, but he 'knows he has it in him.' It is possible that it may be in him; but it is certain that under these circumstances it very, very seldom comes out."

Francis of Verulam's "Great Instauration," of which the *Novum Organum* is a part, is now made accessible to the general reader in a form at once cheap and elegant, in a volume of Bohn's Libraries. It is astonishing how well calculated that book, the *Advancement of Learning*, is to enter the lists with the popular literature of the nineteenth century. The inquisitive survey of universal knowledge is still a model for our modern investigations, unapproached in its clear bright style, its "learned spirit of human dealing," except perhaps by Humboldt, whose illustrations do not ascend to the height of Bacon's fancy. As a test of this book in our everyday nineteenth century affairs, we read the chapters on the Knowledge of the Human Body, while the large assemblage of Doctors was sitting in this city, and we found that much as medicine has gained since the seventeenth century, my Lord of Verulam, a lay writer on that art, could hold his own with the best reported of any of them. We question whether lively Dr. Holmes himself could find a more consolatory reflection for the co-existence of quackery with the regular practice than the mythological discovery of Bacon, that "the clear-sighted poets made Æsculapius and Circe brother and sister, and both children of Apollo; for in all times witches, old women, and impostors, have, in the vul-

gar opinion, stood competitors with physicians." There could doubtless be something gleaned from this old treatise yet by medical men, as in the discouragement of "those mediocrities recommended by physicians, which commonly dispirit nature and unfit her to bear excess, or want upon occasion," and the humane suggestion of an *euthanasia exteriori*—"for that complacency in death, which Augustus Caesar so much desired, is no small felicity; but the physicians of our times make a scruple of attending the patient after the disease is thought past cure; though, in my judgment, if they were not wanting to their own profession and to humanity itself, they should have given their attendance to improve their skill, and make the dying person depart with greater ease and tranquillity." The translation of the *Novum Organum*, adopted by Mr. Bohn, is that by Wood, which the editor, Joseph Devey, pronounces the best extant, and there is an ample commentary, including the remarks of the Playfairs, Sir John Herschel, and the German and French editors. Of the *De Augmentis*, the translation of Dr. Shaw is given as the best, with the omitted passages supplied, and the original arrangement restored.

The *Standard Library*, as the fourth volume of the *Prose Works of Milton*, issues the treatise on Christian Doctrine, translated by Bishop Sumner, the work which, discovered by Mr. Lemon in the state paper office at Whitehall in 1823 created so great a sensation on its appearance, calling forth among other papers the celebrated essays by Channing and Macaulay. The present volume is advertised as revised and corrected, and may be purchased separately from the series.

The *Classical Library* brings us "a feast of nectar'd sweets" in the Idylls of Theocritus, Bion, and Moschus, tempered by the war songs of Tyrtæus; and as a literal prose version would be a bald medium for such refinements, we have, in addition, the metrical versions of J. M. Chapman. The prose translator, the Rev. J. Banks, who enters upon his work *con amore*, has enriched the volume with extensive notes; comparative passages from the poets, and other accessories grateful to the scholar and the man of taste. There are few who will not agree with him in his estimate of his work, "that properly applied it may be of great advantage; and though a resolute opponent of the indiscriminate use of a 'crib,' he is not less persuaded that there are many hard-working tyros, as well as advanced students, to whom it may be a great boon, and whose progress in classical knowledge it will assist rather than impede." To the reader ignorant of their original languages, these literal prose translations, read with such poetical versions as those of Dryden, Pope, and others, must bring the old author much nearer. They are like the affidavits of eye-witnesses alongside of the general summary of the counsel and bench.

The new issue of the *Antiquarian Library* is a translation from the Latin, by the Rev. J. N. Giles, of *Matthew Paris's English History*, a second volume, embracing the events from the year 1244 to 1252.

The *Illustrated Library* publishes in a single volume, with twenty selected engravings, *Stories of English and Foreign Life*, by William and Mary Howitt. It contains some of

the lightest and most pleasing sketches of these authors, as the Artist's Wife, The Meldrum Family, and the Hunnybuns at the Sea-Side.

High School Literature, a Selection of Readings for the Higher Classes of Schools. Selected and arranged by John F. Monmonier, M.D., and John N. McJilton. (Barnes & Co.) A volume of selections in prose and verse, from standard classic authors, designed as exercises in reading and as models of the art of composition, and also to give the schoolboy some knowledge of the leading works in European literature. Selections for schools are usually prepared for purposes of declamation; the book before us has a wider and equally valuable design. The selections are well chosen.

Leila; or the Island, by Ann Fraser Tytler. (Francis & Co.) Leila is a little girl, who, with her father and nurse, is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island. The shifts and devices of the three to obtain shelter and sustenance form the incidents of the book. Stories of the Robinson Crusoe pattern are always popular with children, and are among the best class which can be furnished them, as they inculcate a spirit of self-reliance and contentment. Leila's adventures are pleasantly told, and the juvenile reader's interest in her will be heightened by the pretty appearance she makes in the illustrations which are scattered through the volume.

Woodworth's American Miscellany of Entertaining Knowledge. (Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co.) A volume designed for children, made up of short articles on a great variety of subjects, and profusely illustrated with wood cuts. It is designed to be continued at intervals to the extent of ten volumes, uniform with the present one.

Behind the Curtain.—A Tale of Elville. (Putnam & Co.) A story of country village life, showing the evils of living for show instead of usefulness and happiness, the advantages of simplicity and uprightness, in short of having nothing "behind the curtain" to make one fear having it drawn aside. The story runs fluently and smoothly along, and although dealing with a somewhat commonplace set of characters, possesses much interest in its incidents.

The Lovers' Stratagem, by Emily Carlen. Harper & Brothers. This novel will, we think, prove as great a favorite as "Ivar, the Skutisboy," lately published by the same writer. It is a story of domestic life, with many pleasant scenes, and a fund of quiet humor in its pages. The plot is ingenious and interesting.

A BIRTH-DAY LYRIC.

LEAD me 'mong blossoms white
In the early amber light,
Away from teasing Care,
And let the charmed air,
With luscious tone,
Soothe me with strains unknown.

Oh! heap the blossoms sweet
About my face and feet,
Till half the blushing sky,
And the nook wherein I lie,
Are curtained most deliciously.

With odors deluge me,
With rose-light and low melody;—
For I would dream, until earth seems
What once it promised in my dreams.

Oh, radiant land! where my young eyes
Saw angels in the rainbow skies,
And felt Love's arms in all the air,
And heard Hope singing everywhere—
Sweet land of boyhood! Rose unblown!
Delicious heart-enclosed zone!

How soon—too soon!

The burning Noon

Drank all thy dew from bud and leaf,
And seared the bowers of Young Belief:—

The drifting sands before me spread
With murky redness overhead;
I faint with fighting wrong and sin;
To-day, oh, let me enter in
The gardens beautiful of yore,
And live again my May-life o'er.
I may come forth more firm and strong
To deal with error, blame, and wrong;
Upon my heart fresh dew shall lie,
And heaven seem nearer to mine eye.

H. N. P.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DANISH ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

To the Eds. of the Literary World:—

I HAVE received from PROF. CHARLES C. RAFF, the distinguished Scandinavian scholar to whom our country is so much indebted for his labors in American archaeology and history, the following official report of the proceedings at the last annual meeting of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries. This is one of the wealthiest and best known of the learned bodies of Europe, and is surpassed by none in the number, value, and learning of its publications. It has awakened in the Scandinavian kingdoms themselves such an interest in Northern antiquities as can never die, and has been the chief means of extending among the learned of all countries, a knowledge of the old literature and early history of Polar Europe. Its editions of the historical Sagas of Iceland are the best extant; and its various works on the ancient remains, ruins, tumuli, etc., of Scandinavia, form a complete and inimitable archaeology of those northern regions. For the beautiful typographical execution and scholarly correctness of its publications, for the wide extent of its field of labor, and even for its very existence, the society is indebted to the learning and zeal of Professor Raff, who has spent a lifetime in exclusive devotion to its interests. The Society's roll embraces the names of many of our distinguished countrymen, who in return for the light shed by the labors of the Society upon the mysterious period of our ante-Columbian history, have made it several important donations, and thereby entitled themselves to rank as *membres fondateurs* of this learned association.

I have only translated the most important part of the report.

Truly yours,

D. W. F.

The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries held its annual meeting at the Palace of Christiansborg (Copenhagen), on the 21st of March, under the presidency of His Majesty KING FREDERIC THE SEVENTH. The Secretary, PROFESSOR RAFF, communicated a review of the Society's operations for the year 1852, during which time it had published a volume of *Annaler for Nordisk oldkyndighed och Historie* (Annals of Northern Archaeology and History), and two volumes of the *Antiquarisk Tidsskrift* (Antiquarian Journal).

He also reported great progress towards the completion of the very extensive work under his own editorial charge, *Antiquités Russes d'après les monuments historiques des Islandais et des anciens Scandinaves*.* In connexion with this work he mentioned the mass of testimony which had been gathered from the writings of the Slavonians and mediæval Greeks, all tending to prove the historical fact that at the very time, in the 9th century, when the Northmen discovered and colonized Iceland in the far West, they also made their appearance in the distant East as the first founders of the Russian Empire. He then gave an account of Abbot Nicholas's *Itinerarium* from Iceland to Jerusalem, written in the middle of the 12th century, and called the Society's attention to certain names of places occurring therein, concerning which he had been corresponding with ASSAËD KAYAT, an Arabian scholar in Palestine. The information given by him had been of great use, and had also served to explain a point in the *Itinerarium* of the Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela (written in Hebrew in the same century), which had been misunderstood by the various editors of that work.

He also presented a cast of a Runic stone, found in August, in St. Paul's churchyard in the heart of London, and transmitted to the Society by James T. Knowles, Esq., an English architect. The inscription was in the old Northern tongue as follows: *Konáll lét leggja stin thensi auk Tuki*, i. e. Konall and Tuki let lay (placed) this stone. The name *Konall* (known to us as Connell—*Trans.*) is of Irish origin, and frequently occurs in the old Icelandic writings; it came to Iceland at the period of its colonization with the emigrants from Ireland. The name *Tuki* (*Toki*, *Toke*) occurs often in early Danish documents and on Danish runic stones. The distinguished *Palna-toke* (a celebrated sea-rover and captain, whose history is contained in the *Jomsvikingasaga*, one of the most entertaining and incident-rich of northern histories—*Trans.*) inherited large Earldoms in Britain. This *Toki* may have been one of his descendants, especially as such were known to exist during the reign of Canute the Great; and one of them is styled in a letter from Bishop Ealdred to the monks of Worcester in 1050, "præpotens et dives regis minister."

His Majesty made some extended and interesting remarks upon the manner of constructing the so-called *Giants' Cabins* (*Jettes-tuer*), important remains of antiquity found in many parts of the North. They are often covered or overlaid with gigantic flat stones, whose enormous size and weight seem to presuppose the use of machinery in getting them to their places. His Majesty had been engaged in investigating these interesting remains of our forefathers' toil, and explained with care and clearness his ingenious hypothesis by which he accounted for their construction by manual labor alone. His Majesty afterwards exhibited to the Society several remarkable antiquities and archaeological curiosities from the ages of stone and bronze, and belonging to his own private

* The work here mentioned will be, when completed, as regards typographical execution, one of the most splendid archaeological books ever issued. It is to be in three very large quarto volumes, and is illustrated by multitudes of magnificent maps, fac-similes, &c. All those Icelandic Sagas and parts of Sagas, relating in any way to the history of Eastern Europe, to the foundation of the Russian empire by Rurik, a Northman, and to the long residence in Constantinople of the *Väringar* or Scandinavian body-guard of the Greek Emperor, will be given in its pages with ample translations and notes.—*Translator.*

collection. Among them was a stone battle-axe with Runic letters engraved on one of its flat sides, and a beautiful axe of bronze decorated with superb chasings. This latter, as well as most of the articles exhibited by His Majesty, had been taken from ancient tumuli in different parts of the kingdom.

During the past year the following persons had been elected into the class of *Membres Fondateurs*: in England, H. R. H. Prince Albert, John Earle, Professor of Old English at the University of Oxford, Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, of Northumberland, and the Rev. B. T. Collings; in Scotland, Prof. J. S. More, of Edinburgh; in Germany, H. Pontoppidan, General Consul at Hamburg; and in Denmark, Count Juel-Wind-Frijs, and C. Rönnekanys, Councillor of State.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 25th, 1853.

THE Opera is finished, after a very successful season of only eleven nights, during which it is confidently stated that the average profit on each performance was over a thousand dollars. Since Sontag's departure, the National has been closed, but will re-open next Saturday for the regular summer season of extravagant melodramas and gorgeous spectacles. The French and Spanish Dancers are producing Ballets at the Walnut, so badly that the houses are not much more than two thirds full; the corps of assistants is supremely ridiculous from its want of grace and moderate comprehension. Mr. Hackett plays with them, supported by the stock company. At the Chestnut the business is as poor as usual, with Miss Kimberly and two distinguished canine performers, whose names are unknown to me. The only hope for that theatre is the promised engagement of Anna Thillon, who is to come shortly, and whose pictures are popping into every window, either in oil, water, pastille, daguerreotype, ballotype, or what not; and an omnibus on one of the western lines glories in two "face patterns" of this favorite actress, which, be it said, we should not have recognised for her little ladyship, had not a friend of sharp perceptions, claimed the fuzzy ringlets as Thillon's and "nobody-else's," to use his own emphatic assurance.

The Arch monopolizes the theatrical business of the city at present, with "The Ladies' Battle," "Willow Cope," and several of the old standard comedies, which are admirably mounted in every respect.

The last mania here appears to be the donation of Panoramas by a kind of modified lottery proceeding that just evades the law. Some fifteen or sixteen thousand tickets are sold at a dollar apiece, which are not only worth four admissions to the exhibition, but likewise entitle each holder to one envelope containing the name or number of some little article which he receives as a prize at the general distribution. There are as many prizes as tickets, the highest in value being the panorama itself; the next a fine piano, and so gradually down to some ten thousand shilling prints. Two of these grand "schemes" are to take place the first week in May; one at the Assembly Buildings, the other at the Masonic Hall, which is to be torn down immediately after the distribution, whether by the owners or by the unhappy ticket-holders, is not specified on the bills. At the first mentioned establishment, the owner of the panorama offers fifteen hundred dollars to take the picture off the hands of the drawer, should that individual wish such a proceeding. It strikes me that these proceedings are decidedly original, and quite worthy of Gotham instead of poor little Philamalink.

The concerts of the past fortnight have been thick and heavy, but I have attended none, save those given on Sunday evenings for the production of Mr. Meigner's mass.

This very fine composition has been twice performed,—at St. Mary's and St. Augustine's churches,—both times before as many people as those huge edifices could by any means contain. There appears to be but one opinion in regard to this mass, and that one is favorable in the extreme. It is the musical people, both amateurs and professors, who go into the greatest raptures over it, which is a decided proof of its excellence, as these classes seldom unite in praising the same thing. It is a work of a true scientific style, abounding in efforts of great learning, and familiar acquaintance with the resources of fugue, counterpoint, and modulation. It is written chiefly in D, and contains many fine and striking movements; the Credo and Dona Nobis are looked upon as the best portions. The Kyrie has a great many admirers, and so indeed has every portion of the mass, but the very first I have mentioned appears to be the most generally liked, probably from its dramatic character. The fugue upon the final words, "*Et Vitam Venturi Amen*," is considered a master-piece, and perfectly enchants the admirers of that peculiar style. The music is performed by a full orchestra, and a large chorus of amateur vocalists—the best in the city—being the principal pupils of Perelli and Nourrit; the entire *corps* is led by Meigner in person, and the mass is rendered better every succeeding time of trial. It will soon be repeated in public, certainly before the close of the season.

On Thursday the 25th instant the Harmonia Sacred Music Society will give a fourth and last concert for this season, on which occasion an original cantata, called *Belshazzar*, will be presented. I enclose you a programme, and, by looking at it, you will understand why I leave the duty of noticing the performance to my fellow correspondent, "Logan," who, I doubt not, will tell you the truth in regard to it.

There is very little news stirring in my line at present. The Academy of Fine Arts will very shortly open the Spring Exhibition. I hear that it is not expected to be quite as good as usual, owing to the backwardness, or more truly, to the business of the artists, who are so fully employed that they have no time to paint anything expressly for public inspection. The remains of Mr. Birch's collection of paintings is to be sold at auction this week, including a real "Landseer"—which, be it known, is not so good as it might be.

We have had two or three fires since my last letter; one of which unfortunately destroyed a new and very spacious brown stone double house in Locust street, opposite St. Mark's Church, scarcely finished, and intended as the residence of Isaac Lea, Esq., of the well known publishing firm of Lea & Blanchard, in Fourth street. The beautiful dwelling is a complete wreck, and will have to be entirely rebuilt.

This is, indeed, a short epistle, but it is useless to occupy valuable space with a long talk about nothing; so adieu for the present.

D.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Erratum.—In the stanzas before the last, in the poem "Lament," in No. 326, for Israel read Israfel.

MESSRS. BANGS, BROTHER & Co. commenced on the 12th instant the sale of an exceedingly curious and valuable library, the catalogue for which sale may be had now, gratis. This collection is rich in old editions, and it contains a great many *privately printed books*. Old Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* is represented in

folios of 1638, 1652, 1660, 1676. There is a 1685 folio of Shakspeare. Among the classics there are fine copies of Diodorus Siculus, 1476; Plautus, 1479; Aristophanes, 1498; Cicero de Finibus, 1471; and Origines, 1481. Father Chaucer's "pure English" will be found in editions 1561, 1598, and 1602. Folio Beaumont & Fletcher's, Ben Jonson's, Spenser's and Drayton's works are side by side. In black letter "Bokes" there are Sir Thomas More's works, 1557; Elyote's *Castel of Helth*, 1541; Dial of Princes, 1568; Ascham's *Schole Master*, 1571, and others as curious. A complete collection of Dibdin's privately printed works figures with the modern books, and among them there are many fine editions. This sale, which occupies several evenings, is well worthy the attention of connoisseurs.

MR. WELFORD's great sale of English books, under the auspices of Messrs. Bangs, Brother & Co., and which has lasted nine days, was brought to a close May 7. The attendance, if not very large, comprised those of the trade and amateurs, who well knew the value of what they were purchasing. The prices paid were fair—on the average, we estimate, not differing much from the last sale. Chief among the books on America, old Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*, was bought by Mr. Russell the publisher, of Charleston, for \$25. This copy was in fine order. Considering the number of great libraries, the date (1702), and the edition (250 copies we believe), it is strange that this rare book can now be bought at all. We give a few more of the prices brought by scarce books in the American portion. Hutchinson's *Massachusetts Bay*, Boston, 1769, brought \$14; Sir Francis Drake revived, London, 1653, \$11; Lewis & Clark's *Travels*, 4to., London, 1814, \$15; *The History of the Buccaneers of America*, \$11 50; Stevens's *Collection of Voyages*, London, 1710, \$11 50; Dampier's *Voyages*, London, 1729, \$16; Stith's *Virginia*, Williamsburg, 1747, \$10 50; Sloane's *Jamaica*, London, 1707–25, \$21; Harris's *Voyages*, London, 1744, \$10; *The Works of Jacob Cats*, Amsterdam, 1724, \$10 50; Mrs. Anne Bradstreet's *Poems*, London, 1650, \$11. We were glad to hear the name of J. C. Brown often called, thus securing additions to his already very complete and valuable library.

MESSRS. TICKNOR & Co., Boston, have nearly ready *Tanglewood Tales*, by *Hawthorne*: a new volume of German Lyrics, by C. T. Brooks; a *Memoir of Robert Wheaton*, by his sister; *Prior's Life of Burke*; and *Jane Austen's novels*.

MESSRS. C. S. FRANCIS & Co. publish this week a new juvenile, by Miss Tytler, entitled *Leila, or the Island*; to which story the Quarterly Review awards very high praise.

MESSRS. MOORE, ANDERSON & Co., Cincinnati, have ready a second edition of Moffat's *Life of Dr. Chalmers*; and a reprint of Schleiden's *Poetry of the Vegetable World*. They have nearly ready, *Woman's Medical Guide*, by Dr. Pulte. This last embraces essays on physical, moral, and educational development; on the Homoeopathic treatment of diseases; and directions for the remedial use of water, gymnastics, &c.

"*The Field Practice of laying out circular curves for Railroads*," second edition; and "*A new Method to Ascertain Cubic Contents of Embankments, &c.*," both works by J. C. Trautwine, Esq., C. E., are now for sale by A. Hamilton, Esq., Actuary of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.

"*The Metropolitan*," published by JOHN MURPHY & Co., Baltimore, continues to merit the favorable opinion passed by many contemporaries on its early numbers. The one for May contains articles on Japan; State Education: Science under Catholic Influence; Short Answers to Popular Objections against

Religion, &c. Literary notices, &c. Messrs. Murphy & Co. announce to be ready about the 25th of the month, in 1 vol. 8vo., "*A General Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures*;" in a series of Dissertations, Critical, Hermeneutical, and Historical." By the Rev. Joseph Dixon, D.D., Professor of Sacred History and Hebrew, in the Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth. This celebrated work of the learned Dr. Dixon, now Primate of all Ireland, will be neatly printed from a good clear bold type, on fine paper, and sold at less than one half the price of the Irish edition.

MESSRS. BLANCHARD & LEA have received the early sheets of Russell's *Life of Fox*, and will publish it on the 10th inst. in 2 vols. 12mo. They will also publish from early sheets, a new work by Sam Slick—"Wise Saws and Modern Instances."

REPEAL OF THE ENGLISH ADVERTISEMENT DUTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.

SIR,—Owing to the pressing engagements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Saturday last, some gentlemen were prevented submitting to his notice a few of the peculiar hardships of this tax upon the newspaper proprietor—more especially in regard to the singular competition to which he is exposed. Some time ago, one of the French illustrated journals amused its readers by giving them a spirited pictorial representation of advertising in London. It presented, as may be conceived, a most laughable appearance.

Time was when one advertising van was sufficient for half-a-dozen advertisements. This, however, bids fair to be reversed, it being no uncommon occurrence for two, and even three, vans following each other with one advertisement. But other specimens of street advertising may be given, as for instance, some advertisers are in the habit, during the summer months, of sending out men at daybreak, with metal frame, paint, and brush, for the purpose of painting their advertisements on the street pavement. Such advertisements, it is well known, remain legible for a considerable period; and in some parts of London portions of last year's advertisements may still be seen. The newspaper proprietor has also to contend with more systematic modes of advertising. Prospectuses are being issued daily by various omnibus advertising associations, one of which boasts of its having no less than six hundred omnibuses, in the inside and outside of which advertisements may be inserted. But perhaps the most formidable competition with which he has to contend is that offered by the railway advertising associations, as will be seen by the annexed extract from a prospectus:—

"The importance of this novel system of advertising cannot be too highly estimated, when it is remembered that railway travellers include within their numbers every individual of rank, property, or influence in the three kingdoms, while the frequency of their journeyings may be calculated from the fact that the number of passengers booked on the principal railways in Great Britain alone, in the year 1850, exceeded *sixty Millions*.

"It must be borne in mind, that these immense numbers—the possessors of the aggregate wealth of the country—are concentrated, day by day, at the railway stations; and the circumstances of each journey are such, that either on the departure or arrival, or in the course of transit, every passenger must of necessity become acquainted with the announcements which present themselves to his notice.

"It may be safely asserted, that no other mode of advertising presents so favorable a means of reaching that class which the advertiser desires most to attract."

Other specimens of this competition may be mentioned. It is well known that the various editions of the official catalogue of the Great Exhibition in 1851, presented a desirable channel for advertisements, and, as such, was extensively patronized. The first edition of the shilling catalogue contained no less than 54 pages of advertisements. It was, however, wholly exempt from the duty. In the eye of the law it was neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring—and one of the Stamp-office officials has remarked concerning it that, "nothing was to be got out of it." Of course, so soon as the New Crystal Palace is opened, the same means of advertising will be presented to the public. The peculiar hardship of this tax upon literature has been often pointed out by the press. Let us look at its operation upon a periodical devoted exclusively to literary advertisements and announcements. Bent's List may be considered as a Price Current of literature; is published monthly; and, besides its advertisements, it contains a list of all books published within the month by way of index. Some few years after it was established it was considered as highly desirable that these twelve lists should be condensed into one, for more easy annual reference, so that it might be issued as a supplement. It was found, however, that to escape the duty in every case, though the title of the book and the price might be given, the publisher's name must be omitted, thus rendering it almost valueless to the public. From an estimate I have made in regard to one such supplement alone, I find that had the publishers' names been given it would have been subject to no less than 1,570 duties for books, amounting to the sum of 117l. 15s. It was found, however, that the omission of the publisher's name was so detrimental to its usefulness, that an appeal was made to the stamp-office authorities, in regard to it. No assistance could be obtained from that quarter, and the proprietors began to consider whether means could not be adopted by which, to use the late Mr. O'Connell's remark, "a coach and six might be driven through the act of Parliament." That has been done, and the list is now issued with regularity, the publisher's name being inserted with each book. This has been accomplished by the omission of the word "supplement" on the title page—the law now regarding it simply as a catalogue. One practical difficulty now presents itself, viz., how is it to reach the subscribers in its new form? This has to be overcome partly by the business tact of the publisher, and partly through the agency of the Post-office, but at a cost of fourpence for each copy forwarded through this last channel. But while the difficulties presented by the tax have in this instance been practically overcome, it is not so with the *Publishers' Circular*. This is a bi-monthly publication, and in its list of books the publisher's name is always omitted. Of course, to a large extent, like impediments to completeness present themselves in the various price-currents, trade lists, commercial lists, &c., &c.,—all would doubtless be greatly improved if the advertisement tax was repealed. It was no part of the business of the deputation to seek the imposition of a tax upon the numerous measures adopted for its evasion; but while pointing these out, to show that the exceptional course existing in reference to the newspaper, periodical, and the magazine, should be at once discontinued. It is to be hoped that the representations made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer will induce him to regard the tax in such light, and that he will, in presenting the forthcoming Budget, announce his intention of relieving the press from its infliction.

—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FRANCIS.

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my14 tf

AN ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.—PASSED APRIL 12, 1853.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, Do enact as follows:

§ 1. The Legislative Powers of the Corporation of the City of New York, shall be vested in a board of Aldermen and a board of Councilmen, who, together, shall form the Common Council of the city.

The board of Aldermen shall consist of one Alderman from each ward, who shall be elected by the people of the respective Wards, for two years. The board of Councilmen shall consist of sixty members, to be elected from as many districts, who shall be sworn into office on the first Monday in January next, succeeding their election, and shall hold their offices for one year, and shall receive the same compensation as the Aldermen.

§ 2. The members of the Board of Aldermen first elected under this act shall be classified as follows:—On or before the first Tuesday in December succeeding the next general election, the Clerk of the City and County of New York shall, in the presence of the Mayor, Recorder, and Comptroller, or a majority thereof, draw from a box, to be provided for the purpose, in which two ballots shall have been deposited, having thereon respectively, either the word "odd" or the word "even," one ballot; if the ballot so drawn shall have thereon the word "odd" then the term of office of the Aldermen chosen from wards having an odd numerical designation, shall expire on the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in case the ballot having thereon the word "even" shall be drawn, then the term of office of the Aldermen having an even numerical designation, shall expire on the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six. At all subsequent elections, Aldermen shall be elected for the full term of Two years.

§ 3. For the election of Councilmen, the said city shall be divided into sixty districts of contiguous territory, and as near as may be of equal population, each of which shall choose one Councilman. The Common Council shall so divide the city into such districts on or before the first Monday in September next, and thereafter within one year after the State and National census shall have been completed, the Common Council shall in like manner re-divide said city.

§ 4. Every act, resolution, or ordinance appropriating money or involving the expenditure of money not rendered imperative under provisions of any State law, shall originate in the Board of Councilmen, but the Board of Aldermen may propose or concur with amendments as in other cases.

§ 5. A vote of two thirds of all the members elected to each Board shall be necessary to pass any act, ordinance, or resolution of the Common Council, which shall have been returned by the Mayor, with his objections.

§ 6. No Alderman shall hereafter sit or act as Judge in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, or in the Courts of General or Special Sessions, in the City and County of New York; but this section shall not prevent his exercising the power of a magistrate on the arrest, commitment, or bailing of offenders, except that he cannot set the bail, or discharge a person arrested or committed by another magistrate.

§ 7. All ferries, docks, piers, and slips, shall be leased, and all leases and sales of public property and franchises, (other than grants of land under water, to which the owner of the upland shall have a pre-emption right,) shall be made by public auction, and to the highest bidder who will give adequate security, (no lease hereafter given, except as the same may be required by covenants of the corporation already existing, shall be for a longer period than ten years,) and all ferry leases shall be revocable by the Common Council for mismanagement or neglect to provide adequate accommodation. All persons requiring any ferry lease or franchise under the provisions of this act, shall be required to purchase, at a fair appraised valuation, the boats, buildings, and other property of the former lessees actually necessary for the purposes of such ferry. Previous notice of all sales referred to in this section, shall be given under the direction of the Comptroller for thirty days, in the newspapers employed by the Corporation.

§ 8. No bids shall be accepted from, or contract awarded to any person who is in arrears to the corporation upon debt or contract, or who is a defaulter, as security or otherwise, upon any obligation to the corporation.

§ 9. No money shall be expended by the corporation for any celebration, procession, or entertainment of any kind, or on any occasion, except for the celebration of the Anniversary of the National Independence, the 25th of November, (Evacuation day,) and the Anniversary of the Birthday of Washington, unless by the vote of three-fourths of all the members elected in each board of the Common Council.

§ 10. No additional allowance, beyond the legal claim, under any contract with the corporation, or for any service on its account or to its employment, shall be allowed.

§ 11. The officers of the police, and policemen, shall hereafter be appointed by a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, and City Judge.

§ 12. All work to be done, and all supplies to be fur-

nished for the corporation, involving an expenditure of two hundred and fifty dollars, shall be by contract, founded on sealed bids or on proposals made in compliance with the public notice for the full period of ten days; and all such contracts when given, shall be given to the lowest bidder with adequate security. All such bids or proposals shall be opened by the heads of departments advertising for them in the presence of the Comptroller and such of the parties making them as may desire to be present.

§ 13. There shall be a bureau in the Department of Finance, to be called the "Auditing Bureau," and the chief officer thereof shall be "Auditor of accounts." It shall revise, audit, and settle all accounts on which the city is concerned as debtor or creditor; it shall keep an account of each claim for or against the corporation, and of the sum allowed upon each, and certify the same with reason therefor, to the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall report to the Common Council once in ninety days, the name and decision of the auditor upon the same, together with the final action of the Comptroller thereon. All monies drawn from the city treasury shall be upon vouchers for the expenditures thereof, examined and allowed by the Auditor and approved by the Comptroller.

§ 14. Every person who shall promise, offer, or give, or cause, or aid, or abet, in causing to be promised, offered, or given, or furnish, or agree to furnish, in whole or in part, to be promised, offered, or given to any member of the Common Council, or to any officer of the corporation after his election as such member, or before or after he shall have qualified and taken his seat, any money, goods, right or action, or other property, or anything of value or any pecuniary advantage, present or prospective, with intent to influence his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, on any question, matter, cause, or proceeding, which may be then pending, or may by law be brought before him in his official capacity, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state prison, for a term not exceeding ten years, or shall be fined not exceeding five thousand dollars, or both at the discretion of the court. Every officer in this section enumerated, who shall accept any such gift, or any promise, or undertaking, to make the same under any agreement or undertaking, that his vote, opinion, judgment, or action shall be influenced thereby, or shall be given in any particular manner or upon any particular side of any question, matter, cause, or proceeding then pending, or which may by law be brought before him in his official capacity, shall, upon conviction, be disqualified from holding any public office, trust, or appointment, under the charter of the city of New York, and shall forfeit his office, and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison not exceeding ten years, or by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court. Every person offending against either of the provisions of this section shall be a competent witness against any other person offending in the same transaction, and may be compelled to appear and give evidence before any Grand Jury, or in any court, in the same manner as other persons, but the testimony so given shall not be used in any prosecution or proceeding, civil or criminal, against the person so testifying.

§ 15. No contract by the Supervisors shall be valid, unless expressly authorized by statute, and such as are authorized must be made in the manner provided in the twelfth section of this act.

§ 16. All ordinary appropriations made for the support and government of the Alms House department, shall, before the same are finally paid, be submitted to the Governors of the Alms House, to a board of commissioners, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, Comptroller, the President of the Board of Aldermen and the President of the Board of Councilmen—

—If the said commissioners approve of the appropriations, they shall report the same to the Board of Supervisors; if they shall disapprove of the same, they shall return them with their objections to the Governors of the Alms House for reconsideration; and in case the said Governors shall, upon a reconsideration, adhere by a vote of two thirds of all the governors then in office to the original appropriations, they shall return them to the Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to report to the Board of Supervisors.

§ 17. The Board of Education shall also submit in like manner all appropriations required by them to the Commissioners named in the last preceding section; and said appropriations shall be subject to all the provisions of said section, so far as the same may be applicable.

§ 18. All such parts of the Charter of the City of New York and the several acts of the Legislature amending the same, or in any manner affecting the same, as are inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed; but so much and such parts thereof as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this law, shall not be considered as repealed, altered, or modified in any form affected thereby, but shall continue and remain in full force and effect.

§ 19. The powers now vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistant Aldermen, in granting and revoking tavern licenses, together with all other powers and Excise Commissioners, shall be henceforth vested in the Mayor, with the Aldermen and Councilmen representing the district in which the premises of the party licensed or to be licensed may be located.

§ 20. This act shall be submitted to the approval of the electors of the City and County of New York, at an

election to be held in the said City on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three. The tickets which shall be polled at such election shall contain either the words "In favor of amendments to Charter," or "Against amendments to Charter," and if a majority of all the persons voting thereon at such election shall vote the ticket "In favor of amendments to Charter," this act shall become a law; if a majority of such electors shall vote the ticket "Against the amendments to Charter," this act shall be void.

§ 21. The Common Council are hereby authorized and directed to make all necessary arrangements, by ordinance or otherwise, for the conduct and regulation of all elections authorized under the provisions of this act, and in conformity, as far as may be, to the general election laws.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of office at the City of Albany, this sixteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

ARCH'D CAMPBELL,
Dep. Secretary of State.

The foregoing Act was directed to be published, once a week, in all the Daily and Weekly Newspapers of the city, until the 7th day of June. By order of the Common Council.

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